

least 5 mm, often at least 20 mm and usually at least 40mm and a maximum dimension of up to 300mm but usually not more than around 150 or 200mm.” (Page 8, ll. 22-26.) Applicants respectfully disagree.

The grain size of the material used for the production of a mineral melt is not dependent on the dimension of the final product. Instead, it is dependent on the properties to be achieved by the material, (i.e., uniform distribution of all components within the melt and good melt ability). It is the cited range of grain size of the correction material which gives great benefit to the art of producing mineral melt in view of a uniform compound distribution within the melt and the melt ability of the used materials.

Mineral melts are normally produced in a continuously working furnace or at least in a semi-continuously working furnace. In order to obtain consistent properties of the mineral fibers produced from the melt, it is important that the melt have an equal distribution of compounds when continuously adding raw material to the furnace. It is important that spots of concentration of the compounds be avoided. It is Applicants who discovered that reducing the grain size of correction material renders an equal distribution of compounds while simultaneously producing briquettes (from which the raw material is compacted) having excellent mechanical properties. The grain size of the correction material therefore has great influence on the overall process of producing a mineral melt. The claimed grain size is not inherently disclosed in *Kraglund* especially since *Kraglund* fails to recognize the optimized results which may be attributed to the claimed grain size.

U.S. Patent No. 4,617,045 (“*Bronshtein*”) does not teach the need to use the claimed grain size of the correction materials of Applicants. *Bronshtein* merely discloses reduction in size of the waste material reduces the amount of binder necessary to be employed. There is no reason to

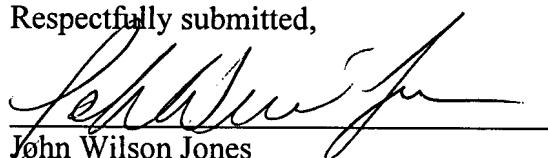
combine *Bronshtein* with *Kraglund* especially since *Bronshtein* fails to recognize the reasons why the grain size of the materials claimed by Applicants should be “optimized”.

Examiner's Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Over Kraglund In View Of Bronshtein and Klein. The Examiner has further rejected Claim 5 over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,402,801 (“*Faulmann*”) and Claim 13 over *Kraglund* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,565,645 (“*Klein*”). Neither *Faulmann* nor *Klein* discloses use of a grain size of the correction materials claimed by Applicants. Since neither *Faulmann* nor *Klein* cures the deficiencies of *Kraglund*, the rejections are traversed.

Conclusions. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned should he deem it prudent to expedite the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

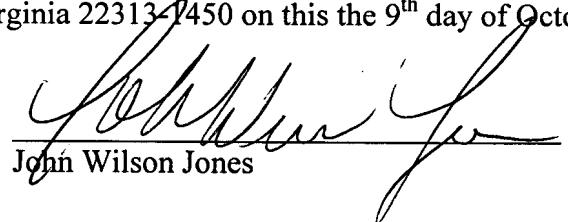
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by first class mail to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on this the 9th day of October 2007.


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